



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,472	03/02/2004	Hans F. van Rietschote	5760-20000/VRTS0629	2107
35690 7590 03/03/2009 MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C. P.O. BOX 398 AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398				
EXAMINER HO, ANDY				
ART UNIT 2194		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 03/03/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/791,472

Applicant(s)

RIETSCHOTE ET AL.

Examiner

ANDY HO

Art Unit

2194

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :9/24/04; 11/15/04; 4/4/05; 8/28/06; 11/22/06; 3/26/07; 5/15/07; 6/7/07; 8/3/07; 9/28/07; 6/20/07.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the application filed 3/2/2004.
2. Claims 1-28 have been examined and are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The specification defines "computer accessible medium" as including non-statutory media such as transmission medium (Specification, lines 1-3 page 33) which incapable of being touched or perceived absent the statutory medium through which they are conveyed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Araujo U.S Patent No. 7,111,060.

As to claim 1, Araujo teaches a system comprising:

at least one computer system, wherein the computer system is configured to execute a virtual machine corresponding to a user (lines 1-3 column 4, lines 3-45 column 9);

a storage subsystem configured to store data representing the virtual machine (60, Fig. 1); and

at least one file server coupled to a network to which the computer system is configured to be coupled (files servers 78, Fig. 1 and associated specification), wherein the file server is further coupled to the storage subsystem, and wherein the file server is configured to provide the computer system with access to the data representing the virtual machine on the storage subsystem over the network (line 62 column 11 to line 19 column 12).

As to claim 2, Araujo further teaches the at least one file server comprises a plurality of file servers in a cluster (multiple machines, lines 19-20 column 9, multiple servers 70, Fig. 1 and associated specification).

As to claim 3, Araujo further teaches the computer system is configured for essentially continuous connection to the network during use, and wherein the computer system is configured to effect modifications to a state of the virtual machine by modifying the data in the storage subsystem (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 4, Araujo further teaches the computer system is configured to cache at least a portion of the data in the computer system (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 5, Araujo further teaches the computer system is configured for intermittent connection to the network during use (lines 9-28 column 10), and wherein the computer system includes storage configured to store the data representing the virtual machine (60, Fig. 1), and wherein the computer system is configured to replicate modifications to a state of the virtual machine to the data stored on the storage subsystem during times that the computer system is connected to the network (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 6, Araujo further teaches plurality of computer systems, and wherein a given computer system of the plurality of computer systems is configured to execute the virtual machine responsive to a user login to the given computer system (multiple machines, lines 19-20 column 9, multiple servers 70, Fig. 1 and associated specification).

As to claim 7, Araujo further teaches a provisioner server coupled to the network, wherein the computer system is configured, during boot, to issue a remote boot request, and wherein the provisioner server is configured to respond to the remote boot request if the computer system is to be provisioned (lines 29-56 column 10).

As to claim 8, Araujo further teaches the storage subsystem is configured to store data representing a plurality of virtual machines (60, Fig. 1), each of the plurality of virtual machines corresponding to a respective user of a plurality of users (lines 1-3

column 4, lines 3-45 column 9), and wherein the system further comprises a maintenance server coupled to the storage subsystem, wherein the maintenance server is configured to perform one or more maintenance actions on the plurality of virtual machines on the storage subsystem (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 9, Araujo further teaches a second computer system used by an administrator, wherein the virtual machine is executed on the second computer system by an administrator to diagnose a problem reported by the user, and wherein the administrator is configured to update the virtual machine to correct the problem, and wherein the user is configured to execute the corrected virtual machine from the storage subsystem (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 10, Araujo teaches a computer accessible medium comprising a plurality of instructions which, when executed on a computer system, responsive to a login of a user on the computer system (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19), cause the computer system to execute a virtual machine corresponding to the user (lines 1-3 column 4, lines 3-45 column 9), the virtual machine represented by data stored in a file system accessible to the computer system over a network to which the computer system is configured to be coupled at least intermittently (60, Fig. 1 and associated specification).

As to claims 11-13, they are computer product claims of claims 3-5, respectively. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 3-5 above.

As to claims 14-17, they are system claims of claims 10 and 3-5, respectively. Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 10 and 3-5 above.

As to claims 18-22, they are method claims of claims 1-5, respectively.

Therefore, they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-5 above.

As to claim 23, Araujo further teaches correcting a problem in the virtual machine by modifying the data on the storage subsystem (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19); and

replicating the data from the storage subsystem to the computer system during a time that the computer system is connected to the network (lines 24-31 column 18).

As to claim 24, Araujo further teaches a provisioner server is coupled to the network, during boot, issuing a remote boot request from the computer system; and the provisioner server responding to the remote boot request if the computer system is to be provisioned (lines 29-56 column 10).

As to claim 25, Araujo further teaches (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19) an administrator diagnosing a problem with the virtual machine; the administrator determining that the computer system is to be provisioned responsive to diagnosing the problem; and the administrator indicating to the provisioner server that the computer system is to be provisioned responsive to the determining.

As to claim 26, Araujo further teaches the storage subsystem stores data representing a plurality of virtual machines (60, Fig. 1 and associated specification), each of the plurality of virtual machines corresponding to a respective user of a plurality of users (lines 1-3 column 4, lines 3-45 column 9), performing one or more maintenance actions on the plurality of virtual machines on the storage subsystem (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 27, Araujo teaches one computer system on which a user logs in during use (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19), at least one file server coupled to a network to which the computer system is coupled at least intermittently (files servers 78, Fig. 1 and associated specification), a storage subsystem storing data (60, Fig. 1) representing a virtual machine corresponding to a user (lines 1-3 column 4, lines 3-45 column 9), and a second computer system used by an administrator (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19), wherein the file server provides access to the data representing the virtual machine to the computer system (files servers 78, Fig. 1 and associated specification), a method comprising:

executing the virtual machine on the second computer system responsive to the user reporting a problem with the virtual machine; diagnosing the problem; and if the problem is within the virtual machine, correcting the problem by modifying the data representing the virtual machine on the storage subsystem (line 2 column 18 to line 16 column 19).

As to claim 28, Araujo further teaches (lines 29-56 column 10) responsive to diagnosing the problem, indicating to a provisioner computer system that the computer system on which the user logged in is to be provisioned during its next boot.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3762. A voice mail service is also available for this number. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIM) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or fax to:

- AFTER-FINAL faxes must be signed and sent to (571) 273 - 8300.

Art Unit: 2194

- OFFICAL faxes must be signed and sent to (571) 273 - 8300.
- NON OFFICAL faxes should not be signed, please send to (571) 273 – 3762

/Andy Ho/

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2194